

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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APPENDIX I

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Chief, FBID

12 December 1955

Field Operations Officer

Coverage Gap: Africa

1. Definition

Africa, as used herein, refers to the continent, with the exception of Egypt which is integrated with the Near and Middle East from an operational standpoint, and to offshore islands of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans.

2. Problem

To measure and assess the size and nature of the African gap in the worldwide coverage program of FBID.

3. Discussion

- a. An analysis of the program output of virtually all broadcasting stations and networks of Africa, reveals that 41 countries and colonies broadcast within the area. In them are 227 transmitters comprising 85 principal networks and stations.
- b. The aggregate program output of these networks and stations averages close to 600 hours daily, of which all but a negligible proportion is intended for domestic audiences. About 10% or 60 hours of this appears to be the type of programming normally monitored.
- c. Although a significant proportion of monitorable material is presented in English, French, Portuguese, Dutch and Arabic, a total of 67 different languages and dialects, mostly indigenous vernaculars is used for domestic audiences. This would considerably complicate any effort to monitor a comprehensive cross-section of African domestic broadcasts.
- d. With the exception of an occasional fifteen minute newscast from Algiers, Rabat or Tunis, and 20 minutes daily from Omdurman, nothing of the remaining African potential is covered by BBC/FBIS; and more than 90% of it cannot be adequately monitored from existing locations.

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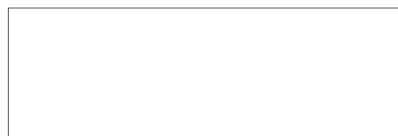
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4. Conclusions

- a. Although enough monitorable material is aired in Africa to constitute a workload for a major bureau, the power and range of the transmitters involved would theoretically split the necessary intercept locations to a minimum of two, N. W. Sahara and Kenya/Uganda; political, operational and other practical considerations would probably extend this to three or more locations if comprehensive coverage were required.
- b. The relatively low productivity of monitored coverage, coupled with a high degree of linguistic complexity and lack of communications, would result in an inefficient operation by present standards if comprehensive coverage were attempted.

5. Recommendation

During Africa's present stage of development, coverage should be confined to what little can be produced from existing monitoring locations until such time as requirements grow to the point where an intercept post for one of the two basic areas is required, i.e. North and West Africa, or East, Central and South Africa. Meanwhile, any urgent requirements which develop should be met on an ad hoc basis as costs justify.



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